

November 6th, 2015

Fighting Against Fraud



Greetings!

With the Legislature's fall session winding down, we had a busy calendar this week. As part of our calendar, I was proud to vote for a package of bills that **combat fraud** in Wisconsin's food stamp program (FoodShare).

AB 188 requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to reclaim funds from accounts that are inactive for more than six months. Unused FoodShare benefits are vulnerable to fraud. Importantly, the funds are still available to recipients, but are stored in accounts maintained by DHS.

AB 200 sets a threshold of 4 replacement FoodShare cards in a year. When an individual requests their 5th card, DHS and the Office of Inspector General will initiate a benefits investigation to determine if any fraud is occurring.

AB 222 will require FoodShare cards to include a photo identification to ensure that the benefits are being used for the intended recipient. It creates another level of security by helping deter the fraudulent use of benefit cards.

FoodShare and other programs provide vulnerable families with the assistance they need to get through tough times. That's why it is crucial we do everything possible to protect the integrity of these programs. **Both of these bills will go a long way in reducing instances of fraud or abuse.**

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As your representative in Madison, I will fight for your interests and continue to advocate for policies that protect taxpayers, create jobs, and ensure a strong education system in Wisconsin.

Sincerely,



A Positive Report Card

Every year the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance develops a report card on Wisconsin's financial health. The results for 2014 are in, and I'd like to share some highlights with you:

- The state's employment rate rose 1.3 percent, **the highest growth rate since 2000.**
- Since 2010, Wisconsin's unemployment rate has fallen every year.
- **Wisconsin's exports are up** from 6.6 percent in 2005 to 8 percent in 2014.
- The median **household income in Wisconsin is up** and exceeded the national median in 2013.
- As we work to reign in government spending, **the tax burden in Wisconsin continues to fall.**

Finding a long-term solution to fund Wisconsin's transportation infrastructure is the Legislature's greatest challenge. We can also do more to make **improve Wisconsin's business climate** to spur business development and investment. And although the tax burden continues to decrease, Wisconsin remains a relatively high-tax state. We have come a long way and still have much to do. The bottom line: **Wisconsin is headed in the right direction.**

I look forward to continuing to advocate for your interests and move Wisconsin forward.

Go, Wildcats!

A big congratulations to the River Falls High School boys soccer team as they head to Milwaukee for their first-ever appearance in the

WIAA state tournament this week. Their first game is today at 2pm against Cedarburg. Good luck, and Go Wildcats!



Nominate an Outstanding UWRF Alumni



The University of River Falls External Relations and Alumni Advisory Board needs your help. They are currently seeking nominations for alumni awards to be awarded this spring. If you know an outstanding UWRF Alumni who deserves special recognition for their service to the community or has excelled in their profession contact the Board by Friday, November 20th at daniel.e.mcginity@uwrf.edu or 715-452-3505

New Blue Books Available

We still have plenty of 2015-16 Blue Books available and we're happy to provide them to you, free of charge. To have one mailed to you, contact my office with your name, address, and the number of Blue Books you would like. We look forward to hearing from you!

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